

BERIAH WRIGHT.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 385.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition and accompanying papers in the case of Beriah Wright, of the State of New York, report:

That he was in service in the United States army as a corporal, and he testifies himself, very clearly, that owing to exposure for want of tents and clothing he was attacked with rheumatism so severely that Major Bayly, commanding the regiment, allowed him to procure a substitute and return to his home some four or five weeks before the expiration of his term of service ; which fact is shown by the major's affidavit.

The term of service commenced May 19, 1813, and Corporal Wright left in the winter of 1813-'14, to go home.

Dr. Kenrick testifies that Wright left home in good health, robust and vigorous, and returned for medical advice ; his complaint was rheumatism ; and that it has disabled him, the said Wright, one-half or three-quarters.

David Palmer, another physician, testifies that said Wright is disabled from same cause one-half.

These gentlemen are certified by justices of the peace as physicians of good repute.

Amos W. Brown, a lieutenant in the 31st United States infantry, the regiment in which Wright served, swears to the disability of Wright having been incurred in the service of the United States, and in the line of his duty.

The Hon. Francis E. Spinner, a member of this house, files a letter in which he refers to the extreme poverty of the petitioner ; he is personally acquainted with Wright, and believes that his case is truly a meritorious one. Your committee are of the opinion that the petitioner is entitled to a pension of \$4 per month, from the 16th day of February, 1858. They therefore report a bill.

THETFORD, *February 27, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 4th instant, in relation to Beriah Wright's petition for a pension, is received, and I have been endeavoring to find some individuals who could recollect facts that would help to substantiate his case; but it is so long since his enlistment and return from the service, that nearly all the old men who knew him at that early period, and lived in his immediate vicinity, are either deceased or have removed to other parts. I have found three or four persons, however, whose testimony may do some good in the matter. The most that any one can say will be, that Wright, before going into the army, was considered to be a very vigorous, healthy man, and able to perform a great deal of hard labor; but that after his return, quite soon after, they heard him complain of severe pain and rheumatism in his back and hips, saying that he took the disease by exposure in the service, and that he seemed unable to labor as he formerly did. There is no one here now who was with him in the army, and no physician who prescribed for him. On account of this difficulty, the affidavits of Drs. Kendrick and Palmer, already filed, furnish all the testimony that can be had from physicians. I think, in the course of a week or two from this time, I shall collect all the testimony that can be procured in this vicinity, and I will forward it to Hon. F. E. Spinner, M. C.

I hardly think that matters of this kind will receive any attention in Congress until the great questions now pending are disposed of. I had hoped that a general act would pass in favor of all these men who served in the war of 1812, to be placed on the pension list.

I shall, with pleasure, do all in my power to aid my old friend and neighbor, Wright, in his afflictions. He was accounted a worthy man and good citizen; while here held the commission of major in the militia organization.

Please say to him, when you see him, that I remain his friend.

Very truly yours,

S. SHORT.

WILLIAM A. DART, Esq.